

# NEBRASKA AGRI-FACTS

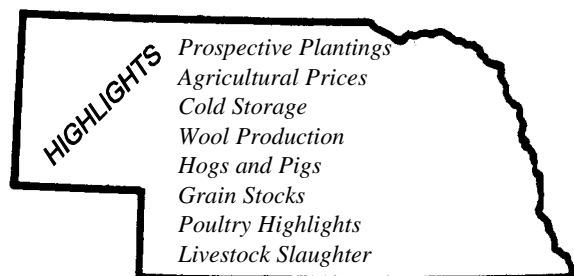
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## MARCH PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

As of March 1, Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage planted to soybeans, dry edible beans, sugarbeets and sunflowers, while decreasing acreage devoted to corn, sorghum, and oats. Total acreage of estimated crops to be planted this spring (including winter wheat and rye, but excluding hay), at 16.0 million acres would be 2% above last year's total of 15.7.

Corn growers expect to plant 8.6 million acres, down 2% from last year, 3% below 1997, but 1% above 1996. Soybean producers expect to plant a record 4.3 million acres, up 500,000

acres or 13% over last year. If realized, this will be well above the previous record high 3.8 million acres planted in 1998. Sorghum growers expect to plant 550,000 acres for all purposes, down 150,000 acres from last year and 350,000 acres below 1997. This continues a decline in sorghum acreage planted which began in 1993. This total would be the smallest sorghum acreage in Nebraska since 1953, when 399,000 acres were planted.

Oat planting intentions, at 135,000 acres, are down 21% from last year. Oat acreage forecast to be harvested for grain, at 75,000, is expected to be down 21% from last year. Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 200,000 acres, up 3% from last year. Sugar beet plantings of 70,800 acres would be 32% more than 1998.

Hay acreage for harvest in 1999, at 3.2 million acres, would be unchanged from last year. Sunflower planting intentions of 72,000 acres were up 3% from 1998 and 31% above 1997. Barley planting intentions were unchanged from last year, at 10,000 acres. Last fall winter wheat was sown on 2.0 million acres, up 5% from the year earlier.

## PLANTED ACREAGE AND INTENTIONS COMPARATIVE DATA -- NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES

CROP	NEBRASKA				UNITED STATES			
	1997	1998	Inten- tions 1999	1999 as % of 1998	1997	1998	Inten- tions 1999	1999 as % of 1998
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Corn <u>1/</u> . . . . .	8,900	8,800	8,600	98	79,537	80,187	78,219	98
Soybeans . . . . .	3,600	3,800	4,300	113	70,005	72,375	73,105	101
Sorghum <u>1/</u> . . . . .	900	700	550	79	10,052	9,626	8,804	91
Oats <u>1/</u> . . . . .	160	170	135	79	5,068	4,902	4,732	97
Oats for Grain . . . . .	90	95	75	79	2,813	2,765	2,686	97
Barley . . . . .	10	10	10	100	6,706	6,340	5,274	83
Dry Beans . . . . .	190	195	200	103	1,869.8	2,010.1	2,045.5	102
Sugar Beets . . . . .	67.3	53.8	70.8	132	1,459.3	1,497.9	1,547.7	103
All Hay <u>2/</u> . . . . .	3,200	3,200	3,200	100	61,084	60,016	60,093	100
All Wheat . . . . .	2,000	1,900	2,000	95	70,412	65,871	63,029	96
Winter Wheat . . . . .	2,000	1,900	2,000	105	47,985	46,449	43,399	93
Sunflower - Oil . . . . .	25	39	40	103	2,284	2,937	3,073	105
- Non-oil . . . . .	30	31	32	103	604	616	882	143
- All . . . . .	55	70	72	103	2,888	3,553	3,955	111

1/ Grown for all purposes. 2/ Acres for harvest.

# NEBRASKA PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The mid-March Index of Prices Received by Nebraska farmers, at 131% of its January-December 1977 average, was up 4 points (3%) from February and was 11 points (8%) lower than a year earlier. The Index of Livestock and Livestock Products was up 5 points (3%) from last month and was 1 point (1%) below a year ago. The Crop Index was up 2 points (2%) from last month and 27 points (21%) below last year.

# U.S. INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED

The March All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in the United States was 97 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0%) from February. Price decreases from February for milk, soybeans, broilers, and hogs more than offset price increases for cattle, lettuce, oranges, and eggs. Compared with March 1998, the U. S. All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.9%) lower.

## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	Unit	NEBRASKA			UNITED STATES				
		March 1998 1/	Feb. 1999 1/	March 15, 1999	March 1998 1/	Feb. 1999 1/	March 15, 1999	% of Parity	Parity Price*
Wheat .....	Bu.	\$ 3.19	\$ 2.49	\$ 2.62	\$ 3.33	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.74	29	\$ 9.58
Corn .....	Bu.	2.50	1.95	1.99	2.55	2.05	2.04	31	6.55
Oats .....	Bu.	1.81	1.25	1.25	1.64	1.20	1.20	35	3.43
Grain Sorghum .....	Cwt.	3.95	3.05	3.15	4.02	3.16	3.13	30	10.30
Soybeans .....	Bu.	6.23	4.67	4.50	6.40	4.80	4.55	33	13.90
Hay, All, Baled .....	Ton	73.00	46.00	42.00	95.30	79.00	78.50	---	---
Alfalfa, Baled .....	Ton	77.00	47.00	43.00	102.00	82.00	82.40	---	---
Other, Baled .....	Ton	57.00	41.00	39.00	76.30	70.40	67.40	---	---
Dry Edible Beans .....	Cwt.	21.00	16.80	16.40	20.20	18.40	17.70	35	49.90
Hogs .....	Cwt.	37.40	30.50	28.90	34.90	27.60	26.50	26	101.00
Barrows & Gilts .....	Cwt.	37.50	30.60	29.00	35.30	28.10	26.90	---	---
Sows .....	Cwt.	28.10	20.20	24.50	26.70	18.10	20.30	---	---
Beef Cattle .....	Cwt.	63.00	61.90	65.40	61.30	60.60	62.10	41	150.00
Steers & Heifers .....	Cwt.	63.90	62.60	66.50	64.30	63.60	65.50	---	---
Cows .....	Cwt.	38.30	32.20	31.40	36.00	34.70	34.70	---	---
Calves .....	Cwt.	90.60	87.80	89.10	89.80	86.90	86.50	45	191.00
Sheep .....	Cwt.	35.60	26.90	NA	41.00	30.20	NA	---	64.50
Lambs .....	Cwt.	70.30	62.50	NA	70.10	67.20	NA	---	155.00
All Milk .....	Cwt.	14.00	14.00	13.60	14.40	15.50	15.00	50	30.20
Milk, Fluid .....	Cwt.	14.00	14.20	---	14.50	15.60	15.10	---	---
Milk, Mfg. ....	Cwt.	13.30	10.70	---	12.90	12.30	12.10	---	---

1/ Entire month average except hay. \*Parity price based on data for March 1999. NA = Not Available

## NEBRASKA PRICE INDEX NUMBERS

(1977=100)

Item	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1999	Mar. 15, 1999
All Farm Products .....	142	127	131
All Crops .....	131	102	104
Food Grains .....	151	118	124
Feed Grains & Hay .....	130	99	101
Oil Bearing Crops .....	92	69	67
Miscellaneous Crops .....	142	131	130
Livestock & Products .....	149	143	148
Meat Animals .....	150	143	149
Dairy Products .....	151	151	147

## U.S. COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 1999, were greater than year earlier levels for butter, pork, chicken, vegetables, concentrated orange juice, potatoes, and fruit. Stocks on February 28 for selected items and changes from last year and last month follow:

Commodity	Stocks 1,000 lbs.	Percent Change	
		Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999
Total red meats .....	866,753	+5	+3
Beef .....	301,314	-10	Sm.+
Pork .....	543,260	+17	+5
Poultry .....	1,104,251	-6	+2
Turkey .....	376,045	-27	+3
Chicken .....	723,658	+9	+1

## WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

STATE	SHEEP and LAMBS SHORN 1/	WEIGHT PER FLEECE	PRODUCTION	PRICE PER POUND	VALUE
<u>NEBRASKA</u>	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Dollars	1,000 dollars
1996 .....	97	7.4	720	.49	353
1997 .....	85	7.6	644	.52	335
1998 .....	91	7.3	660	.41	271
<u>UNITED STATES</u>					
1996 .....	7,215	7.8	56,159	.70	39,270
1997 .....	6,960	7.7	53,578	.84	44,909
1998 .....	6,426	7.7	49,239	.60	29,406

1/ Includes shearing at commercial feeding yards.

## HOGS AND PIGS

Nebraska pork producers had an estimated 3.3 million hogs and pigs on hand March 1, 1999. This number was down 4% from a year earlier, 4% below two years ago, and the lowest March 1 inventory since 1978. Hogs and pigs kept for breeding were 2% below a year ago and 5% less than two years ago, while market hogs were 5% below last year and 4% below March 1, 1997.

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the United States was estimated at 59.9 million head on March 1, 1999. This was 1% below a year ago and 4% below the December 1, 1998, inventory. Breeding hog inventory was down 6% from March 1, 1998, and down 2% from December 1, 1998. Market hogs were slightly above last year, but 4% below last quarter.

### HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY, MARCH 1; SOWS FARROWING AND PIG CROP, 1998-1999

Item	NEBRASKA			17 STATES			UNITED STATES		
	1998	1999	% Chg.	1998	1999	% Chg.	1998	1999	% Chg.
<b>On Farms - March 1:</b>	1,000 head			1,000 head			1,000 head		
All hogs and pigs .....	3,450	3,300	-4	55,760	55,195	-1	60,163	59,851	-1
For breeding .....	430	420	-2	6,290	5,860	-7	6,942	6,527	-6
Market .....	3,020	2,880	-5	49,470	52,335	+6	53,220	53,323	---
<b>Market hogs &amp; pigs</b>									
<b>by weight groups:</b>									
Under 60 pounds .....	1,220	1,140	-7	18,645	18,235	-2	20,192	19,804	-2
60-119 pounds .....	750	750	---	11,960	11,895	-1	12,791	12,764	---
120-179 pounds .....	570	550	-4	10,040	10,195	+2	10,774	10,970	+2
180 pounds and over .....	480	440	-8	8,825	9,010	+2	9,464	9,786	+3
<b>Sows Farrowed:</b>									
December 1/-February ....	165	165	---	2,671	2,614	-2	2,929	2,892	-1
March-May .....	170	*170	---	2,809	*2,609	-7	3,086	*2,879	-7
June-August .....	170	*170	---	2,771	*2,567	-7	3,054	*2,841	-7
September-November .....	175	---	---	2,716	---	---	2,993	---	---
TOTAL .....	680	---	---	10,967	---	---	12,062	---	---
<b>Pig Crop:</b>									
December 1/-February ....	1,403	1,411	+1	23,326	22,869	-2	25,480	25,250	-1
March-May .....	1,428	---	---	24,605	---	---	26,989	---	---
June-August .....	1,462	---	---	24,226	---	---	26,634	---	---
September-November .....	1,448	---	---	23,548	---	---	25,902	---	---
TOTAL PIG CROP .....	5,741	---	---	95,705	---	---	105,005	---	---

1/ December preceding year. \* Intentions.

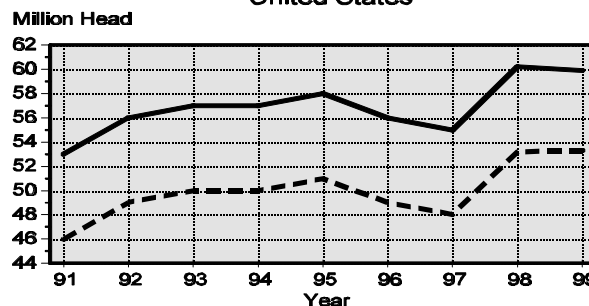
17 States: AR, GA, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, NC, OH, OK, PA, SD, WI.

### MARCH 1 HOG REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- \* U.S. inventory down 1% from March 1998. Expectations of private forecasters averaged 99% of the previous year with a range of 97% to 101%.
- \* Market hogs were unchanged from a year earlier. Private forecasters' expectations ranged from 98% to 101.5% with an average of 100%.
- \* Breeding herd was down 6% from a year earlier. Expectations of private forecasters ranged from 92% to 96% with an average of 95%.
- \* U.S. December-February pig crop was down 1% from a year earlier. Analysts expected the pig crop to be 98% of previous year; estimates ranged from 96% to 99%.
- \* March-May intentions are down 7% from actual farrowings a year earlier. June-August intentions are down 7% from the previous year's actual farrowings. If plans are carried out, farrowings would utilize about 88% of March breeding herd.

- \* Commercial hog slaughter during December-February at 25.9 million head was 4% above a year earlier. Live hog imports were 750,000 head equal to a year earlier. Total exports increased to 100,000 head, compared to 30,000 a year ago.

### March 1 Hog Inventory & Market Hogs United States



# STOCKS OF GRAIN

Grain and Position	NEBRASKA				UNITED STATES			
	March 1, 1997	March 1, 1998	March 1, 1999	1999 1998	March 1, 1997	March 1, 1998	March 1, 1999	1999 1998
	Thousand bushels			Pct.	Thousand bushels			Pct.
Corn								
On Farms .....	410,000	410,000	520,000	127	2,870,000	2,975,000	3,570,000	120
Off Farms <u>1/</u> .....	221,517	232,251	261,378	113	1,624,128	1,964,898	2,125,546	108
Total .....	631,517	642,251	781,378	122	4,494,128	4,939,898	5,695,546	115
All Wheat								
On Farms .....	5,000	9,000	11,000	122	320,750	399,920	470,220	118
Off Farms <u>1/</u> .....	21,920	31,591	42,880	136	501,069	766,644	974,594	127
Total .....	26,920	40,591	53,880	133	821,819	1,166,564	1,444,814	124
Soybeans								
On Farms .....	25,000	27,000	44,000	163	514,000	637,000	815,000	128
Off Farms <u>1/</u> .....	36,024	39,272	39,217	100	541,912	565,922	643,280	114
Total .....	61,024	66,272	83,217	126	1,055,912	1,202,922	1,458,280	121
Sorghum								
On Farms .....	24,000	12,000	11,000	92	76,980	56,760	60,900	107
Off Farms <u>1/</u> .....	29,393	19,580	25,836	132	197,294	177,916	165,522	93
Total .....	53,393	31,580	36,862	117	274,274	234,676	226,422	96
Oats								
On Farms .....	1,500	1,600	1,200	75	56,200	58,800	61,700	105
Off Farms <u>1/</u> .....	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	---	39,362	52,418	47,588	91
Total .....	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	---	95,562	111,218	109,288	98

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. 2/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

## POULTRY HIGHLIGHTS - FEBRUARY

Item	1998	1999	'99 % of '98
	Millions		Percent
No. of Layers			
NEBRASKA .....	10.4	10.8	104
30 States .....	296.0	305.3	103
U.S. ....	313.2	323.0	103
Eggs Produced			
NEBRASKA .....	209	213	102
30 States .....	5,784	5,948	103
U.S. ....	6,109	6,287	103
Chicks, U.S.			
Hatched, February			
Egg-type .....	34.6	35.6	103
Broiler .....	644.5	661.7	103
Hatched thru February			
Egg-type .....	71.8	71.3	99
Broiler .....	1,355.1	1,397.1	103

## COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

February 1999 output and changes from last year and last month are shown below. February 1998 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 1999 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Item	Total 1/ (1,000)	% Change	
		Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999
<u>NEBRASKA</u>			
Cattle, head .....	570.6	+2	-8
Hogs, head .....	475.9	-3	-13
Sheep & Lambs, head .....	.1	Same	Same
Red Meat, mil. lbs. ....	531.8	+2	-8
<u>UNITED STATES</u>			
Cattle, head .....	2,721.8	-1	-8
Calves, head .....	99.7	-12	-5
Hogs, head .....	7,904.8	+3	-8
Sheep & Lambs, head .....	298.9	-3	+11
Red Meat, mil. lbs. ....	3,535.3	+2	-8

1/ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.